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Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 11-15 July 2005

Report of the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/24 V of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and decided to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue of which was to be decided by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Assembly also decided to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. The following year, in its resolution 57/72 of 22 November 2002, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of early and full implementation of the Programme of Action and decided to convene the first of the biennial meetings in New York in July 2003 to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels. The First Biennial Meeting was held from 7 to 11 July 2003. By its resolution 59/86 of 3 December 2004, the Assembly decided that the Second Biennial Meeting of States should be held in New York from 11 to 15 July 2005.

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II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

3. The Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held its session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 15 July 2005. During the course of its session, the Meeting held 10 plenary meetings to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action, including international cooperation and assistance.

4. Pamela Maponga of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as Secretary and Christa Giles of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as Deputy Secretary of the Meeting.

5. The Meeting was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Nobuyasu Abe, who delivered a message from the Secretary-General addressed to the Meeting. Mr. Abe also conducted the election of the Chairperson of the Meeting.

B. Officers

6. At its 1st meeting, on 11 July 2005, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Pasi Patokallio (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Dziunik Aghajanian (Armenia), Aleh S. Shloma (Belarus), Guillermo A. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Alfred Moungara Moussotsi (Gabon), Léo Mérorès (Haiti), Andy Rachmianto (Indonesia), Yoshiki Mine (Japan), Astrid Ryan (Norway), Kwang-chul Lew (Republic of Korea), Petr G. Litavrin (Russian Federation), Cheikh Niang (Senegal), Ncumisa Pamella Notutela (South Africa), Christophe McBride (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Pui Leong (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)).

C. Adoption of the agenda

7. At the same meeting, on 11 July, the Meeting adopted its provisional agenda (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/L.1), as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.
2. Election of the Chairperson.
3. Statement of the Chairperson.
4. Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

6. Adoption of the agenda.

7. Organization of work.

8. Election of other officers of the Meeting.

9. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action (statements).

10. Statements by non-governmental organizations and civil society.

11. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action (thematic discussion).

12. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Meeting.

8. The Meeting also considered and adopted its programme of work (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/L.2).

D. Rules of procedure

9. At its 1st meeting, on 11 July, the Meeting decided to use the rules of procedure of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/L.1), mutatis mutandis.

E. Documentation

10. The Meeting had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/15);

(b) Rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/L.1);

(c) Provisional agenda (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/L.1);

(d) Programme of work (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/L.2);

(e) List of participants (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/INF.1);

(f) Report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (A/60/88).

11. The Meeting also had before it national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action submitted on a voluntary basis by the following 100 States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea,

Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe. The reports are available at http://disarmament.un.org:8080/cab/salw-nationalreports-2005.htm.

III. Proceedings of the Meeting

A. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action (statements)

1. Member States

12. At its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 11 and 12 July 2005, in accordance with agenda item 9, the Meeting heard statements by the representatives of the following countries: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (on behalf of the Economic Community of Central African States), Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, France, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), New Zealand, Nicaragua (on behalf of the Central American Integration System), Nicaragua (national statement), Nigeria (on behalf of the African Group), Nigeria (national statement), Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum Group), Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom (on behalf of the European Union), United States, Uruguay (on behalf of MERCOSUR and associated States), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam. The observer of the Holy See made a statement.

13. At its 4th meeting, on 12 July, the Meeting continued its consideration of agenda item 9 and heard statements by the representatives of Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Jamaica, Jordan, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Rwanda, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (on behalf of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (national statement) and the United Republic of Tanzania. The representative of Greece made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

2. International and regional organizations

14. Also at its 4th meeting, on 12 July, the Meeting began consideration of the global and regional implementation of the Programme of Action and heard statements by the representatives of the League of Arab States, the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Colombia (on behalf of the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking

in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials), the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization. The Meeting also heard statements by representatives of the following United Nations entities: Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, on behalf of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, Department for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and World Health Organization. A statement was made by the representative of Egypt.

B. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action: statements by non-governmental organizations and civil society

15. At its 5th meeting, on 13 July, the Meeting began consideration of agenda item 10 and heard statements by the representatives of the International Action Network on Small Arms and the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities. The representative of Yemen made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply. The representatives of Germany and Mali made statements.

C. General exchange of views — thematic discussions

16. At its 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th meetings, held on 13, 14 and 15 July, the Meeting held thematic discussions.

D. Conclusion

17. The Meeting considered the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects on the basis of statements by Member States, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives, together with relevant documentation. Member States reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of the Programme of Action. Progress in national, regional and global implementation, in particular since 2003, was reported. While welcoming the significant progress made, the Meeting recognized that further action was required to fulfil the commitments undertaken in the Programme of Action. As part of statements reviewing national implementation, some issues relevant to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, but not covered by the Programme of Action, were also raised.

18. The Meeting also considered, on the basis of the list of questions provided by the Chairman in his letter of 20 May to Member States, the implementation of the Programme of Action with respect to the following 13 themes: weapons collection and destruction; stockpile management; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; capacity-building; resource mobilization; institution building; marking and tracing; linkages (terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in drugs and precious minerals); import/export control; illicit brokering; human development; public awareness and culture of peace; and children, women and the elderly. International cooperation and assistance was discussed as a cross-cutting theme relevant to all the themes.

19. The Meeting, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in particular, contributing to a successful review conference in 2006, noted that further follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action could benefit from being consolidated around future biennial meetings of States.

IV. Adoption of the report

20. At its 10th meeting, on 15 July, the Meeting considered and adopted the report of the Second Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/BMS/2005/1).